Meeting of the Friends of the Outlet board of directors Wednesday October 17, 2017.

Present: Gwen Chamberlain, Leon Fontier, Kristi Hoag, Tom McGuigan, Dave Reeve, Phil Rahr, Steve Stork, Nancy Tharp, Peg Thompson, Carol Worth and Mickey Orr.

Guests: Taylor Fitch, Bill Weber

Bill Weber spoke during the comment period of the meeting about clearing the stream bed of debris. He briefly outlined his involvement with the Keuka Lake Compact and his involvement with the organization. He would like the Department of Conservation to reclassify the outlet so that the creek bed could be cleared of debris. He would like to seek funding for clearing it.

Dave made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20 board meeting with corrections, seconded by Leon. Passed.

Dave told the board FOTO has received another notice of an IRS filing issue. This issue has still not been resolved and he has forwarded the latest communication to Tom Podsiadlo CPA. Motion by Leon to accept the financial report, seconded by Tom. Passed. Dave reviewed the amount for the new bulletin boards. Carol said all labor was donated by Marbles. Motion by Steve, seconded by Carol to approve the amount spent for the bulletin boards. Passed. The Department of Transportation has requested proof of insurance connected with a permit for use of the trail under Rt. 14. Gwen has the materials needed to respond.

Leon reported on results of the Walk for Water. A total of $7,891 was included including $1,500 in seed money. Expenses totaled $1,395 for a new of $6,496. Each organization involved is to receive $2,165.37. Friends of the Outlet, Penn Yan Rotary Club and HTS Congo are the three organizations that sponsored the September 16 event. Gwen said the groups will consider doing the event next year. She said she would like to keep $400 in the Walk for Water account for this purpose.

Mickey reported on Maintenance Committee activities. He thanked Keuka College, Phil and Jason Page and their crew for their work on clearing the Seneca Falls viewing area. He said mowing will continue until frost. Mickey outlined proposals for surfacing the trail. He said City Hill made an estimate for 1 inch depth by 5 foot width at $3 per foot for the seven miles of trail. New sub base would also be needed at additional cost per foot. Tim Hansen also submitted a report that was distributed to board members. Mickey estimated the surfacing work on the entire trail would cost between $350,000 and $400,000. Mickey said it might be possible to get companies to do a short segment at a time. Moving on to other items, he said there are still a few benches to be installed. A new porta-potty has been installed at Milo Mills. The work is starting to wind down for the season. Mickey said he has been approached by the local Habitat for Humanity group about the possibility of using the old Outlet Tire building at Cascade for storage of their materials. Kristi asked if there is a proposal to consider. Gwen said she would be interested in discussing a proposal. Steve said FOTO would have to check on insurance. Gwen said that a subcommittee could be formed if a proposal is received.

Kristi reported on the Membership Committee. She said there are 270 members to date, an increase of 63 percent from last year at this time. A corporate fundraising letter has been sent out.

Carol presented a report from the Long Range Planning Committee. She said she was approached by Leona Jensen about a trailer that is encroaching on FOTO land. Carol said the committee would like all FOTO members to use G Suite. Carol said she would like a one half day facilitated discussion of the Design Connect proposal. Gwen asked if the group should wait until the Genesee Regional Transportation Council study is finished. She said that looking ahead, there is a meeting in November but no meeting in December and many people will be gone during the next few months.

Phil reported on the Community relations committee. He said the Web presence is down a little since summer. There have been 50 views of the Google ad on our website. Facebook and Instagram have been added to our website. In February a Hot Chocolate and History event is planned with the History Center. June is National Trail Day. Phil discussed the possibility of events at the old visitor center building. Kristi said she would like FOTO to partner with community groups for events.

Leon spoke about the Hopeton Campground. He said he has walked it and it is a gorgeous property. Maintenance has mowed it. He said it is a great asset that we are not using. The area was developed through use of the 1996 Bond Act.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.